

**From:** D. Bevard  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/24/02 9:46am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern:

Please get this misguided effort at courtroom competition over. We have had computers in our home since our first TRS-80 (Radio Shack sale) since 1977. There are plenty of options for the consumer if he so chooses. Personally, I do not want to have to go back to having to buy a different software for each computer because they all become proprietary.

Once upon a time we had a Magnavox system. It had a proprietary OS (not windows-which was available) and proprietary applications (word processing, spreadsheet solution, database manager) Then one day we got a card in the mail saying..too bad folks. We have decided not to support this system anymore. We have been running Microsoft software by choice since then. We could have purchased other software, it was our choice as a consumer. It was painful (the proprietary stuff from Magnavox was not compatible with any other software. All the information had to be rekeyed..not fun) and expensive. There were cheaper alternatives, as well as more expensive ones (IBM). This was our choice. We like millions of other people voted with our dollars. By the way, we run Internet Explorer, Netscape, and several other browsers, although Internet Explorer is our favorite.

This witch-hunt is destroying a segment of our economy and hurting the consumer. You have put millions of people's livelihoods at risk by this nonsense. End it. Force the settlement on the States and let the market get back to innovating new stuff for us consumers.

The industry nor the government is responsible for the consumers understanding of software. If a consumer is not informed enough to make a good decision, it is the consumers responsibility to do the research necessary to make the purchase.

Denise Bevard